

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

DRC-01 /155 W

----- 078472

R 111245Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1610

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 950

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF MR

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN REACTIONS TO MID EAST CONFLICT

1. AS OF OCT 11 GIRM HAD TAKEN FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

A. TELEGRAMS OF SOLIDARITY TO PRESIDENTS ASAD AND SADAT
FROM OULD DADDAH.

B. SENT FONMIN MOUKANSS BACK TO NEW YORK TO COORDINATE
GIRM POSITION ON DEVELOPING CRISIS WITH ARAB REPS AT UNGA.

C. DECIDED TO MAKE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ARAB CAUSE.
(THIS APPARENTLY WILL TAKE FORM DEFRAYING OPERATING COSTS IN
NOUAKCHOTT OF EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN EMBASSIES AND AL-FATAH
OFFICE.)

2. COMMENT. SEE NO EVIDENCE GIRM TURNING HOSTILE TO US
AS RESULT OF CONTINUING MID-EAST CONFLICT. LEADERSHIP HAS
COME TO VALUE GOOD RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON AND IS BEING
OUTSPOKENLY APPRECIATIVE ABOUT EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF
WE HAVE GIVEN. PRESIDENT LAST WEEK DURING VISIT OF USAID
(FEI) MISSION, HE THANKED ME FOR OUR PROGRAMS TO HELP
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HIS COUNTRY WARD OFF FAMINE, DEVELOP PROJECTS FOR LONGER-
RANGE REHABILITATION AND CREATE TIES WITH US PRIVATE SECTOR.
FURTHER DRAMATIC ASSIST GOT UNDERWAY OCT 9 WITH USAF GRAIN
AIRLIFT FROM NOUAKCHOTT TO ISOLATED P MTERN AREAS OF COUNTRY.

3. DESPITE THIS NEW WARMTH, AM MINDFUL THAT GIRM REMAINS
LED BY SUBSTANTIALLY SAME PLAYERS WHO IN JUNE 1967 BRUSQUELY
SEVERED RELATIONS WITH US. THEY SUBSEQUENTLY REGRETTE
THAT ACTION AS HAVING BEEN AGAINST MAURITANIAN NATIONAL
INTERESTS, BUT THEIR PRO-ARAB SENTIMENTS HAVE NOT DIMINISHED
IN THE INTERIM. LEADERSHIP'S ARABISM MIGHT TRIP IT UP
SHOULD WE ONCE AGAIN BECOME THE TARGET OF SHARP VILIFICATION
IN THE ARAB EAST.

MURPHY

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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